

CERT in Disasters

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens maybe initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.



**CITY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND
HOMELAND SECURITY**

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CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Office of Emergency
Management and Homeland
Security



Community Emergency
Response Teams
(CERT)



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Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light

search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Us-

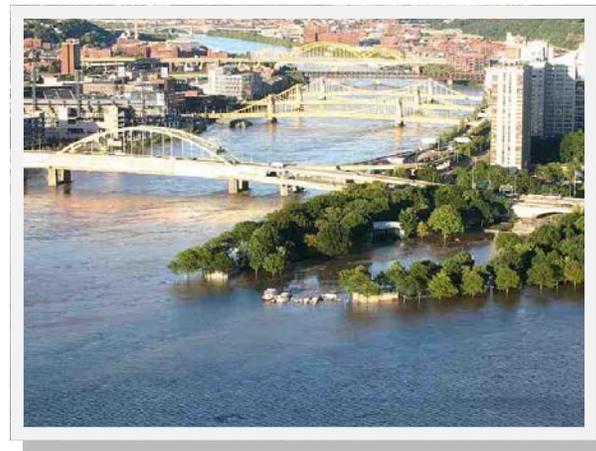
ing the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



CERT Team Training

CERT team training provides team members with classroom and hands on training in real-world emergency response procedures. The CERT training for community groups is usually delivered in 2 1/2 hour sessions, one evening a week over a 7 week period. Training includes:

- Disaster preparedness
- Fire safety and utilities
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Team organization
- Disaster psychology
- Terrorism Awareness



CERT Program History

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985; as a result of earthquakes in Southern California CERT addressed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs in a major Emergency.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized the value of preparing citizen to respond to assist government in an emergency . FEMA adopted and expanded the CERT materials making them applicable to All Hazards Incidents